

In association with



TimeOut
TOKYO

**Toei Tokyo
Guide Map**
4th edition

NEIGHBOURHOOD GEMS

**Explore Ueno-Kuramae,
Yanesen & Otsuka-Sugamo
with Toei**

Get around with

Tokyo Sakura Tram

Toei subway

Toei bus

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DO MORE.**

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OTSUKA-SUGAMO

Otsuka boasts a burgeoning nightlife scene, while Sugamo is known as ‘Harajuku for grannies’. The best way to get around both neighbourhoods is the Tokyo Sakura Tram – just make sure to check whether the tram you’re getting on is headed for your destination. Bus options include the 都 02 from Kinshicho, which stops at Otsuka Station, and the 草 63, which connects Ikebukuro Station and Yanesen via Sugamo Station. The Toei Mita subway line also stops at Sugamo.

Recommended means of transportation for exploring this area:
Tokyo Sakura Tram 都 02 上 6 0 草 6 3

01 Restaurant Relish a rice ball

Onigiri specialist Bongo offers a whopping 50 types of rice balls, available from ¥250 per item. There’s almost constantly a queue out in front, but you’ll never have to wait long to get your hands on the product – be it one filled with salmon, curry or clam salad.



02 Restaurant Munch on midday meat

Also known as carnivore central, Otsuka offers plenty of choice for those looking to dine on quality meat. You can grill your own cuts at Sansuien, in business since 1959 right by Otsuka station’s north exit. Set meals can be had from ¥1,300 at lunchtime.

04 Café Appreciate fruit fit for a king

Arranged to look like little bouquets, the fruit parfaits at this unassuming greengrocer’s excite both the eyes and the taste buds. Try the JA Kumamoto Premium Takami Melon Parfait (¥1,400), made with a rare type of cantaloupe that’s supposedly one of the sweetest in all of Japan.



07 Bar Discover your new favourite sake

Traditional Japanese pubs abound near Otsuka Station, but Motto lords over the competition with its sake selection. Rice-based brews from all over Japan can be savoured by the cup (60ml, ¥300), and combined with seasonal seafood and veg sourced directly from producers.



09 Sightseeing Pray to the monkey guardian

Tucked away between buildings in front of Koshinzuka Station on the Toden Arakawa tram line, this tiny shrine is dedicated to Sarutahiko, a god believed to guide lost travellers to safer shores, and is protected by a cute statue of the deity’s guardian monkey.



YANESEN

Comprising the three neighbourhoods of Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi, historic and sleepy Yanesen feels a world away from the rest of Tokyo. If you’re coming from Ikebukuro, take the 草 63 bus from Ikebukuro Station’s east exit to Dangozakashita, the final stop. To reach Ueno Park from Yanesen, seek out the 上 58 buses, which run from Waseda Station and make several stops along Shinobazu-dori.

Recommended means of transportation for exploring this area:
Toei buses 都 08 上 5 8 草 6 3

11 Café Kick your morning into gear

Located in a former warehouse for tea products, Cibi is a stylish ‘lifestyle concept store’ where the pleasures of design, food and coffee come together. You can enjoy the unique space and the warm hospitality from 8am every morning.

Cibi 2-B

13 Takeaway Eat your way to the sunset

Lined with stalls selling croquettes, minced meat outlets, grilled chicken and other cheap but satisfying street snacks, the Yanaka Ginza shopping street connects Nippori and Sendagi stations. The view over it from the ‘Yuyake Dandan’ staircase is especially beautiful at sunset.

Yuyake Dandan 2-B



14 Takeaway Power up with a beefy sarnie

Something of a local institution, butcher shop Koshizuka deals in everything from exclusive brand beef to discount bacon, all certifiably fresh and cut to order. If you’d rather eat something right then and there, the corned beef sandwich shouldn’t be overlooked.

Sendagi Koshizuka 2-B

16 Shopping Upgrade your everyday tools

Need a specific cooking utensil, or perhaps a traditional broom? Matsunoya, a renowned supplier of daily necessities, works closely with both local and far-flung artisans to offer basic yet timeless handcrafted products.

Yanaka Matsunoya 2-B

17 Café Make your own lucky kitty

Cats are a common sight in the narrow streets and alleys of Yanesen, so it’s only fitting that the neighbourhood also hosts this uber-punny workshop and café. Try decorating your own ‘maneki-neko’ (‘beckoning cat’) over tea and cat-themed sweets (from ¥1,620).

Cafe Nekoemon 2-B



19 Takeaway Stop for a super-fresh smoothie

Aiming to educate Tokyoites on the wonders of greens sourced directly from producers, Vegco Vegeco sells veg both online and at this tiny brick-and-mortar shop, where you can ask to have some of the colourful produce turned into a smoothie on the spot.

Vegeco Vegeco Nezu 2-B



Seasonal Tips

Taking note of seasonal events adds extra flavour to your travels through Tokyo. In addition to the cherry blossoms in spring, we recommend the bon odori dances in Sugamo between late July and early August, the roses that bloom along the Tokyo Sakura Tram’s route from early May to early June and again from early October to early November, and the annual exhibition highlighting work by new Tokyo University of the Arts graduates in late January.

12 Bar Savour the seasons in a tall glass

Tucked away in an alley so picturesque it looks almost like a movie set, Orso seats only six or seven customers at a time. But squeezing in is worth the trouble: both the French-Italian cuisine and the cocktails, flavoured with seasonal fruit, maintain the very highest quality.

Orso 2-B



15 Sightseeing Stock up on shrine snaps

As far as Instagram-friendly shrines go, Nezu is hard to beat. Whether it’s the imposing main hall, the row of red torii gates at Otome Inari or – in April – the more than 3,000 blooming azaleas that appeal to you most, you’re likely to be snapping away for quite some time.

Nezu Shrine 3-B

18 Art Get artsy in a bathhouse

Formerly an actual bathhouse, this high-ceilinged gallery displays modern art, photography and much more, and also functions as a hub for art-hoppers making their way through Yanesen towards the Tokyo University of the Arts campus.

Scaï the Bathhouse 2-B



20 Café Mingle over slippery sweets

Mix community-focused events themed on everything from jazz to gyoza dumplings with a selection of traditional Japanese desserts provided by a local jelly dealer, and you get this wonderfully comfy café, perched on the top of a hill with enviable Skytree views.

Sansakizaka Cafe 2-B

UENO-KURAMAE

If you’re planning a stroll from historic Ueno to trendy Kuramae, we recommend riding the 都 02 bus, which runs between Otsuka and Kinshicho stations. Kuramae Station is also served by the Toei Asakusa and Oedo subway lines, which, like all Toei buses, offer free wi-fi.

Recommended means of transportation for exploring this area:
Toei buses 都 02 上 5 8 上 6 0 草 6 3

21 Leisure Enter the animal kingdom

Ueno Park has its fair share of major museums, but its zoo remains the biggest draw. After queueing for your chance to greet Shan Shan, the adorable panda born here in 2018, find a seat on one of the terraces to enjoy lunch al fresco.

Ueno Zoo 3-B



©Tokyo Zoological Park Society

23 Restaurant Feast on sake and sashimi

Pick from the small dishes lined up along the counter – all priced between ¥200 and ¥300 – and pair your choices with a ¥280 beer or some equally reasonably priced Niigata sake at this standing-only seafood specialist hidden underneath the railway tracks.

Aji no Fue 3-C

24 Restaurant Savour figure-friendly delicacies

Built around lightly fermented brown rice and other natural eats, the meals conjured up by macrobiotics expert Yoshitaka Ogino are both super-healthy and irresistibly moreish. Traditional Japanese lunches start from ¥1,100, while natural wine and sake can be sipped in the evenings.

Yuwaeru 3-C



25 Shopping Spin for a capsule surprise

Satisfying your every yarn-, twine- and other sewing-related need, this venerable retailer is a local landmark in Kuramae, a neighbourhood famed for its history of craftsmanship. The Edo-style accessories and Japan-themed capsule toys out front make for great souvenirs.

Machida Itoten 3-C

27 Restaurant Bite into a mighty burger

Gourmet burgers meet superb Skytree views at the foot of Umayabashi. Don’t miss the avocado cheese burger (¥1,280), built around a perfectly grilled, satisfyingly juicy 100% domestic beef patty.



29 Sightseeing Harness the power of the shogun

Honouring Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, Ueno Toshogu was initially established in 1527. Its current shrine hall dates back to 1651, having survived both the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923 and World War II. When visiting, don’t forget to check out the cute ‘omamori’ talismans on sale.

Ueno Toshogu 3-B

30 Art Admire an architectural icon

Ueno Park is a treasure chest of modernist architecture, with the World Heritage-registered NMWA as the crown jewel. Designed by Le Corbusier, its spacious halls house Impressionist masterpieces and Rodin sculptures, while Café Sui ren, the museum restaurant, offers luxurious lunches.

The National Museum of Western Art, Tokyo 3-C

22 Café Start your day the old-fashioned way

Established in 1963, this retro coffeeshop lives up to its name (‘old castle’) with luxurious décor and a menu that’s hardly changed since the smoky days of the Showa era (1926-1989). The breakfast set (‘morning’) is great value.

Kojo 3-C



26 Shopping Pick out a pixelated coffee mug

Specialising in clothing and fun knickknacks decorated with retro-flavoured pixel art, this unique shop stands out among the many stylish boutiques and cafés in Kuramae. Its in-store gallery features a different up-and-coming artist every week.

Tokyo Pixel 3-C



28 Shopping Dig for useful treasures

Whether it’s artisanal leather items, stylish clothing or practical tableware you’re looking for, you’re likely to find something of interest at this gem of a local retailer, housed in a small warehouse-like space.

Weekender Shop 3-C



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Weekender Shop 3-C

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Ueno Toshogu 3-B



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